



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476
Phone: 781-316-3000

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

School Committee Minutes 11-26-2002

THE ARLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2002
7:30 PM

Present: David McKenna, Chair
Suzanne Owayda, Vice Chair
Paul Schlichtman, Secretary
Barbara Goodman
Joani LaMachia
Denis Sullivan
Martin Thrope

Superintendent: Kathleen Donovan
Chief Financial Officer: David Kale
Special Education Director: Marilyn Bisbicos

Absent: Joanne Gurry

Call to order: 7:35

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

SECRETARY'S REPORT

" Mr. Schlichtman reviewed correspondence.
" On a motion by Mr. Schlichtman and seconded by Mr. Sullivan it was
Voted to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of October 22, 2002 (Ms. LaMachia abstain)

BIP/FOOTBALL VIDEO

Athletic Director Rob DiLoreto and Behavioral Intervention Program Director Jon Pike showed a video highlighting the football game between AHS seniors and the students in the Behavioral Intervention Program.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Mr. Sullivan and seconded by Ms. Goodman it was
Voted to enter executive session for the purpose of a grievance hearing and to return to open session at the conclusion of the hearing. Roll Call: Unanimous.

Executive Session 8:00 – 8:25 pm

PTBC REPORT

Suzanne Owayda (SC representative on the PTBC) presented to the Committee a brief overview on the issue of moving forward with the final design plans for the Dallin School. John Cole chair of the PTBC was also present to answer any questions from Committee Members.
Ms. Owayda explained that the PTBC was looking for guidance on whether or not to proceed with the restart of the final design phase for the Dallin School. According to Town Counsel John Maher although TM gives the PTBC the authority to spend the money on a design the PTBC is not obligated to spend the money and the PTBC can and should use its moral, ethical and political sense to decide whether or not to spend the money. The PTBC is concerned that if construction does not go forward this summer (because of the uncertainty in the states rate of reimbursement) much of the design plan will be obsolete by the time it is finally started and the \$500,000.00 used would be wasted.

On a motion by Ms. Owayda and seconded by Mr. Sullivan it was voted that

The Arlington School Committee is committed to rebuilding all of its neighborhood schools, to achieve that goal in a timely and fiscally responsible manner. The Arlington School Committee recommends that the PTBC delay the restart of the final design plans for the Dallin School until at least late March/early April. This short delay will give the School Committee information on the amount of financial support the new governor is planning to provide to SBAB funding. In addition, we will have more updated information from the DOR on how towns can fund school building projects. Both pieces of information are necessary to making fiscally sound decisions in our elementary school REBUILD project. Roll Call: Unanimous

On a motion by Mr. Thrope and seconded it by Ms. Goodman to postpone a decision on the Dallin School until the meeting of December 9th with the Board of Selectmen and the PTBC. Motion fails 5 no 2 yes (Mr. Thrope and Ms. Goodman)

APPOINTMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

On a motion by Ms. Owayda and seconded by Ms. Goodman it was unanimously Voted to appoint Kim Lam as the School Committee Representative to the Human Rights Commission.

APPROVAL OF WARRANT

On a motion by Ms. LaMachia and seconded by Mr. Sullivan it was Voted to approve warrant # 03067 in the amount of \$693,020.45.RC: Unanimous (with Mr. Thrope's noted abstention).

PRIVATE FUNDRAISING FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Supt. Donovan reviewed the Arlington Partners in Education Foundation, a 501 (c) (3) public charity. The APEF was incorporated in 2001 with the goal of providing funds to the APS through awarding grants.

On a motion by Ms Goodman and seconded by Ms. LaMachia it was unanimously Voted to support with appreciation the Arlington Partners in Education Foundation.

Mr. Thrope requested that Town Counsel John Maher verify that there is no conflict of interest having a school employee as president of the Arlington Partners in Education Foundation.

Mr. Thrope voiced concern over the recent fundraiser at the Bishop school that raised \$50,00.00. Although Mr. Thrope commended their success and acknowledged that it was a private fundraiser he believed that other schools may lack the resources to raise that amount of money to benefit their schools.

Both Ms Goodman and Ms. Owayda echoed Mr. Thrope's concern; Ms. Owayda stated that it is an issue of equity and suggested that the issue should be addressed in the policy & procedures subcommittee.

FULL DAY KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM/2003-2004

Supt. Donovan informed the School Committee that there would be a Kindergarten Transition meeting on Wednesday December 11th for perspective parents and students. Part of the information presented at the meeting will be the program fee for full day kindergarten, The Superintendent explained that since the financial situation will be difficult and the outlook on grant money is not clear, the program fee may need to be increased. The Superintendent requested direction from the Committee on how to present a possible fee increase to prospective parents. The committee discussed the issue at length emphasizing the fact that no one wants to increase the program's fee, recognizing the fact that although full day kindergarten is not mandated it has become an expectation; but did convey to Mrs. Donovan that parents must be aware of the Town's financial situation.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

.. Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment

Mr. Schlichtman reported that the subcommittee discussed MCAS results, a graduation appeal process, and holding a public forum with a panel that represents a MCAS critic, supporter and a representative from MASC.

.. On a motion by Mr. Schlichtman and seconded by Mr. Sullivan it was unanimously Voted to hold a public forum this winter to discuss the impact of the MCAS graduation requirement.

.. DOE/Accountability Report

Supt. Donovan reviewed the AYP (Annual Yearly Progress) report from the State that merges the MCAS scores with the "No Child Left Behind" Federal program.

PUBLIC VOTE

On a motion by Ms. Goodman and seconded by Mr. Sullivan it was

Voted a sum of money to Superintendent Donovan for the purpose of negotiating salary increases for principals and non-professional staff for FY2003. Roll Call: Unanimous

NEW BUSINESS

“ The School Committee discussed various dates to hold a budget workshop for school committee members facilitated by CFO David Kale. On a motion by Ms. LaMachia, seconded by Ms. Goodman and amended by Mr. Sullivan it was voted to convene a budget workshop for the purpose of reviewing the budget in detail; the workshop will be held on January 28th at 6:30 pm. 6 yes 1 no (Ms. Owayda)

“ Future Financial Forum- The Community Relations Subcommittee will host a financial forum for the community that focuses on how education can be funded differently.

“ Mr. Thrope requested that a discussion on the Gibbs School be placed on the next agenda and also the follow up on the Piece Tile Project

“ On a motion by Mr. Thrope and seconded by Mr. Sullivan it was

Voted to meet on December 9th at 7:15 with the Board of Selectmen and the PTBC at the Town Hall. 6-yes 1-no (Mr. Schlichtman unable to attend)

On a motion by Mr. Sullivan and seconded by Ms. Goodman it was

Voted to enter executive session to discuss a grievance hearing with no further business to be conducted upon return to open session except to adjourn. RC: Unanimous

On a motion made and seconded it was unanimously voted to adjourn at 11:20 pm.

Submitted by
Karen Tassone
Committee Secretary